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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Portugal, Republic of Moldova and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 and 62/126,[1]

Recalling also that in its resolution 62/126, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session, on the implementation of eleven of the fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action, namely armed conflict, drug abuse, environment, girls and young women, health, HIV/AIDS, information and communications technology, intergenerational issues, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities and youth participation in society and decision-making,

Emphasizing that all fifteen priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated,

Stressing the important role of effective national youth policies in promoting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society";

[1] In operative paragraph 1 of Commission for Social Development resolution 47/1, the Commission reaffirmed the World Programme of Action to the Year 2000 and Beyond and its Supplement (see General Assembly resolution 62/126, annex) as a unified set of guiding principles to be referred to henceforth as the World Programme of Action for Youth.

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3. *Stresses* that youth are often among the main victims of armed conflict, and in this regard, calls upon Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to establish, in collaboration with young people, youth-friendly and evidence-based substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes in order to address the vulnerability of young people to substance abuse;

5. *Also emphasizes* that the deterioration of the natural environment, in particular climate change and loss of biodiversity, is one of the principal concerns of young people worldwide and has direct implications for the well-being of youth both now and in the future, and therefore urges Member States to:

(a) Promote environmental awareness among youth by including relevant components into educational and training curricula at all levels, in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

(b) Strengthen the participation of youth in the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment at the local, national and international levels, as envisioned in Agenda 21;[2]

(c) Enhance the preparedness of youth to be employed in renewable and sustainable energies sectors;

6. *Reaffirms* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women,[3] the Beijing Platform for Action[4] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first 'century",[5] and urges Member States to take measures, including the involvement of boys and young men, to promote gender equality in all aspects of society and to eliminate violence against girls and young women as a matter of priority;

7. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure that young people enjoy a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being by providing youth with access to affordable and comprehensive health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and diseases related to lifestyle choices, such as poor diets, lack of exercise and use of tobacco and alcohol;

8. *Reaffirms* the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session on 27 June 2001[6] and General Assembly resolution 60/262, and urges Member States to meet their commitments on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and the elimination of discrimination against young people living with HIV/AIDS;

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] S-26/2, annex.

9. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of young people, and invites Member States, the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society to ensure access to information and communications technology, to promote the development of locally relevant content and to implement measures to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately and safely;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard, calls upon Member States to promote opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

11. *Urges* Member States to develop policies and programmes aimed at reducing youth involvement in crime and to ensure that law enforcement, judicial systems and rehabilitation services are safe, fair and promote the well-being of youth by:

(a) Providing access to education, employment and leisure programmes;

(b) Ensuring the complete physical and legal separation of juvenile from adult judicial and penal systems;

(c) Promoting alternatives to incarceration, such as social and community service;

12. *Recognizes* that leisure time is an important aspect of youth well-being and health, and in this regard, calls upon Member States to protect the right of all youth to leisure time and to enhance opportunities for the exercise of this right in a positive way;

13. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations, and therefore encourages Member States to ensure the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making processes by:

(a) Creating effective channels of cooperation and information exchange among young people, their national Governments and other decision makers;

(b) Encouraging and promoting youth-led organizations and the important role they play in promoting young people's civic engagement and in providing non-formal education through financial and technical support and the promotion of their activities;

(c) Supporting the establishment and functioning of independent national youth councils or equivalent bodies;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to consider using the goals and targets proposed in the reports of the Secretary-General[7] at the national level as a means of facilitating the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

[7] A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7/Add.1 and A/64/61-E/2009/3.

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to further develop and propose a set of possible indicators linked to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the proposed goals and targets, in order to assist States in assessing the situation of youth, with a view to allowing it to be considered by the Commission for Social Development and by the Statistical Commission at the earliest opportunity;

16. *Welcomes* the recent increased collaboration among United Nations entities in the area of youth development, and calls upon the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration.